

EC-4048. A communication from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the legal descriptions of acquired lands and conveyed lands in the State of Alaska; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4049. A communication from the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the profitability of the credit card operations of depository institutions, dated June 1999; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4050. A communication from the Chairman, Postal Rate Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on international mail costs for fiscal year 1998; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-231. A resolution adopted by the House of the Legislature of the State of Michigan relative to the Kyoto Protocol on greenhouse gas emissions; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 98

Whereas, The people of Michigan join other Americans in the concern that emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases may pose a risk of adding to natural long-term changes in climate, such as warming of the Earth, shifts in climate patterns and weather conditions, and other atmospheric aberrations; and

Whereas, Scientists are continuing to investigate and debate the merits of existing evidence of climate change. Researchers are developing more information about the extent, causes, and solutions related to greenhouse gases; and

Whereas, Michigan's citizens want government leaders to seek affordable, effective ways to address climate change; and

Whereas, in July 1997, the United States Senate adopted Senate Resolution 98, which directs the United States not to adopt any agreement emerging from the Kyoto, Japan, summit on climate change that would commit this nation to limits or reductions in greenhouse gas emissions without also requiring commitments by developing nations or that would impose undue economic burdens on all Americans; and

Whereas, Despite well-documented uncertainties about the scientific basis of climate change and contrary to the directives contained in Senate Resolution 98, the United States signed the Kyoto Climate Treaty. This treaty, often referred to as the Kyoto Protocol, commits this nation to reducing its emissions of greenhouse gases to amounts that are seven percent below their 1990 levels between the years 2008 and 2012 (an amount requiring more than a 30 percent reduction in projected United States carbon emissions achieved by reductions in energy use). The treaty, however, exempts more than 130 developing nations from similar constraints; and

Whereas, Energy provides valuable services to citizens through the heating and cooling of homes, transportation, processing of fuel, and other services vital to our citizens' well-being and our security; and

Whereas, Achieving the Kyoto Protocol targets will not mitigate climate changes or its effects, but according to the United States Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration, it may cause the loss of 2.4 million jobs throughout most industry sectors and increase the price of elec-

tricity (up to 86%), gasoline (66 cents per gallon), fuel oil (76%), and natural gas (147%); and

Whereas, Studies by the Heartland Institute and the Sparks Companies show that the Kyoto Protocol would increase production costs and cut farmers' incomes by one-quarter to one-half. This would force many family farms out of business, reduce agricultural exports, and increase food prices, which would be especially detrimental to America's poorest families; and

Whereas, According to the United States Energy Information Administration, meeting the emissions reduction targets in the Kyoto Protocol could cost the average household in the United States \$4,100 per year beginning in 2010 resulting from the increase in the price of utilities, fuel, and consumer goods and services. It is projected to cause the loss of 96,500 jobs in Michigan; and

Whereas, Other alternatives to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, such as research and development and voluntary emissions reduction programs, should be investigated and considered. It is vital to use a balanced approach to promoting economic progress and protecting the environment; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we oppose the provisions of the Kyoto Protocol and memorialize the United States Senate not to ratify the Kyoto Climate Treaty. We urge federal authorities to consider strategies to protect the environment that apply to all nations and encourage alternative, voluntary proposals to reduce greenhouse gases; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-232. A resolution adopted by the House of the Legislature of the State of Illinois relative to Social Security; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 95

Whereas, Social Security is America's premier family protection system, providing working families with crucial income insurance in the event of the retirement, death or disability of a family wage earner; and

Whereas, Social Security is the only secure source of retirement income for the overwhelming majority of Americans, with two in three older American households relying on Social Security for half or more of their income; and

Whereas, Many of the proposals being discussed would require sharp and misguided benefit cuts, including raising the normal retirement age and reducing the cost of living adjustments; and

Whereas, The Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance Trust Funds are reporting that Social Security is secure and can pay full benefits until 2032, with 70 to 75 percent of benefits covered by expected revenues after that time; and

Whereas, Many Americans are concerned about Social Security's long-term financial viability; therefore, be it

Resolved, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-First General Assembly of the State of Illinois, That (1) Congress should take steps soon to strengthen Social Security so that all Americans can be assured that the program will be there for them; (2) Social Security should continue to provide an unreduced foundation of economic security for American families; (3) Social Security benefits should not be subject to the whims of the market, and private investment accounts

should never be substituted for the core defined benefits Social Security currently provides; (4) Working families should be able to count on full disability and survivor protections that grow to meet the needs of families, including spouses and children; (5) Americans who do not spend full careers in the paid workforce because they work at home caring for children or other family members should not be penalized by reform; and (6) Responsible Social Security reforms must be based on realistic assumptions about the economy as well as about the uncertainty and risk inherent in markets; and be it further

Resolved, That suitable copies of this resolution be presented to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, and each member of the Illinois congressional delegation.

POM-233. A resolution adopted by the House of the Legislature of the State of Illinois relative to the Social Service Block Grant/Title XX program; to the Committee on Appropriations.

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 160

Whereas, Congress and the White House have funded the Social Service Block Grant/Title XX program at a relatively stable level for the past 5 years; and

Whereas, The FFY 99 funding level for this program unexpectedly dropped 17% during budget negotiations at the close of the last congressional session; and

Whereas, This federally funded program is almost exclusively devoted to community based human services throughout the State of Illinois, including adoption services, case coordination services, intervention for victims of domestic violence, youth development services, day care for children, employment development services, family support, foster care for children, homemaker services, outpatient treatment, protective intervention, rehabilitation and training for handicapped adults, and treatment for substance abuse, among other funded services, extending into every county and legislative district in the State serving over 130,000 individuals or families in Illinois; and

Whereas, The National Conference of Mayors, the National Council of State Legislatures, and the National Governors Conference have all strongly recommended the restoration of full funding to this important program; therefore be it

Resolved, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-First General Assembly of the State of Illinois, That the Illinois congressional delegation be informed of our concern regarding this essential source of funding for critically important State programming and services; and be it further

Resolved, That the Illinois House of Representatives urges the Illinois congressional delegation to influence and guide the federal budgeting process for FFY 2000 and beyond to restore full funding for the Social Service Block Grant/Title XX program and incrementally increase funding for this essential program as future federal budget opportunities present themselves; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be forwarded to the members of the Illinois congressional delegation immediately.

POM-234. A resolution adopted by the House of the Legislature of the State of Illinois relative to the proposed "Dollars to the Classroom Act"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 228

Whereas, H.R. 2 is a bill that was introduced this year in the U.S. House of Representatives to send more dollars to the

classroom and for certain other purposes; and

Whereas, In this bill, Congress urges the Department of Education, states, and local educational agencies to work together to ensure that not less than 95% of all funds appropriated for elementary and secondary education programs administered by the Department of Education is spent for children in their classrooms; the bill also provides for an educational flexibility program under which the Secretary of Education allows a State educational entity to waive statutory and regulatory requirements for the State educational agency or any local education agency or school and provides for the modification of arbitrage rebate rules applicable to bonds used to finance public schools; therefore be it

Resolved, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-First General Assembly of the State of Illinois, That we urge the U.S. Congress to pass H.R. 2; and be it further

Resolved, That suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, the President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate, and each member of the Illinois congressional delegation.

POM-235. A resolution adopted by the House of the Legislature of the State of Illinois relative to the proposed "Death Tax Elimination Act"; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 229

Whereas, H.R. 8, the Death Tax Elimination Act, was introduced in the House of Representatives of the 106th Congress; and

Whereas, H.R. 8 will amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to phase out estate and gift taxes over a 10-year period; and

Whereas, The elimination of federal estate and gift taxes will result in tax savings to the citizens of this State; therefore, be it

Resolved, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-First General Assembly of the State of Illinois, That we encourage the United States Congress to pass H.R. 8; be it further

RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to the President pro tempore of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and each member of the Illinois congressional delegation.

POM-236. A resolution adopted by the House of the Legislature of the State of Illinois relative to Phase II Reformulated Gasoline; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 303

Whereas, The federal Clean Air Act requires a new type of motor fuel to be sold in the Nation's ozone non-attainment areas beginning January 1, 2000; and

Whereas, This new fuel is known as Phase II Reformulated Gasoline or RFG; and

Whereas, Illinois has 2 ozone non-attainment areas: the 8-county Chicago Metropolitan area which will have to sell Phase II RFG exclusively and the 3-county Metro-east area; and

Whereas, Most of the present Phase I RFG fuel sold in the Chicago Metropolitan area, through a partnership between corn growers, ethanol processors, and gasoline refiners and marketers, contains 10% ethanol; and

Whereas, The Chicago RFG market accounts for 400 million gallons of ethanol demand, making it the foundation of the domestic ethanol industry today; and

Whereas, The General Assembly is greatly concerned that present United States Environmental Protection Agency regulations for Phase II RFG could severely limit or prohibit the blending of ethanol in gasoline by refiners, especially in the summer months,

thereby endangering the Illinois ethanol industry's core market; and

Whereas, To date, the Chicago Area and Illinois have made extraordinary progress in meeting the demands of the Clean Air Act, leading to greatly improved air quality, much of which is attributed to the use of existing RFG fuels; and

Whereas, The USEPA's proposed Phase II RFG regulations for January 1, 2000, constitute a real threat to the economic viability of Illinois; ethanol industry and Illinois' gasoline refining industry; and

Whereas, Illinois' ethanol industry supports over 50,000 jobs in the corn farming and ethanol processing sector, with major facilities in Peoria, Decatur, and elsewhere in the State; and

Whereas, Illinois' gasoline refining and marketing industry employs over 40,000 Illinois workers, including 6 major refineries producing over one million barrels a day of gasoline and other products in the Chicago area, St. Louis area, and Southeastern Illinois location; therefore, be it

Resolved, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-First General Assembly of the State of Illinois, That we encourage and support Governor George Ryan's decision to immediately engage the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency in a dialogue towards meeting and resolving the technical challenges of using ethanol in Phase II RFG; that the dialogue shall include presentation of recent research data suggesting ethanol benefits and the request that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency permit the continued use of ethanol under phase II of the RFG Program in a way that will not economically disadvantage Illinois' ethanol and gasoline refining industries; and be it further

Resolved, That if urban airshed modeling is required as a necessary component of the presentation to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the General Assembly will support funding for the Illinois EPA to conduct the modeling; and be it further

Resolved, That suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to the Governor, the Director of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the President of the United States, and each member of the Illinois congressional delegation.

POM-237. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska relative to the Kosovo conflict and to Alaskans serving in the military forces in the area of the conflict; to the Committee on Armed Services.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLVE NO. 20

Whereas, Slobodan Milosevic has embarked upon a policy of ethnic cleansing of Albanians in Kosovo, Yugoslavia; and

Whereas, the actions of the Serbian military forces are a humanitarian disaster in the making and are not acceptable in the civilized world; and

Whereas, the armed forces of the United States are currently participating in the campaign against Serbian forces in Kosovo to stop the ethnic cleansing activities; and

Whereas, many of the United States troops that will be sent to the Balkans will be pulled away from civilian lives at great personal sacrifice; and

Whereas, The Allied troops will be expected to endure many uncertainties and hardships caused by separation from their loved ones for months while stationed in the harsh conditions of the Balkan region; and

Whereas, the tremendous humanitarian effort being taken by the Allied military force is an enormous service to mankind; and

Whereas, members of our military forces are performing their mission with great dis-

patch, exemplifying the high degree of dedication, professionalism, and training that underlines the technologies and strategic superiority of our military strength; and

Whereas, many of our United States troops are in danger, and the media reports that the public must be prepared to accept the possibility that there will be United States casualties; and

Whereas, Alaskans in the military services have been called on to participate in the Kosovo conflict and are likely to be called on to serve there in increasing numbers; and

Whereas, these Alaskans are and will be serving in the interest of the United States with dedication, honor, and commitment; be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature

(1) commends the bravery and dedication of Alaska's military personnel and of all men and women who are serving in the Kosovo conflict; and

(2) applauds the extraordinary job being done by the United States and Allied military forces in saving lives by setting up tents and establishing refugee camps; and be it further

Resolved, That the members of the Alaska State Legislature express their heartfelt concern for the safety of the United States military personnel in the conflict, and of the refugees who are fleeing Kosovo, and, therefore, urge President Clinton and the Congress to use whatever means available to bring the conflict to an end as soon as possible and in a manner that will help secure a just and lasting peace in the region; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature requests the Alaska Legislative Council to direct the Legislative Affairs Agency to send the following message to all Alaskans and military personnel stationed in Alaska who are serving in the United States armed forces in the Kosovo conflict: "The members of the Alaska State Legislature thank you heartily for your efforts in stopping the barbaric actions of Slobodan Milosevic in Kosovo and for laying a foundation for a just and lasting peace in the region. We commend your bravery and dedication. We wish you a safe and speedy return home."

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United States; the Honorable Al Gore Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Strom Thurmond, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable William S. Cohen, Secretary of Defense; to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators; and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative; Brigadier General Dean Cash, Commanding General, U.S. Army, Alaska; Brigadier General Phillip Oates, Adjutant General, Alaska National Guard; and Colonel George Cannelos, Director, Alaska Air National Guard.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. STEVENS, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special report entitled "Further Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals, Fiscal Year 2000" (Rept. No. 106-101).

By Mr. THOMPSON, from the Committee on Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 335: A bill to amend chapter 30 of title 39, United States Code, to provide for the